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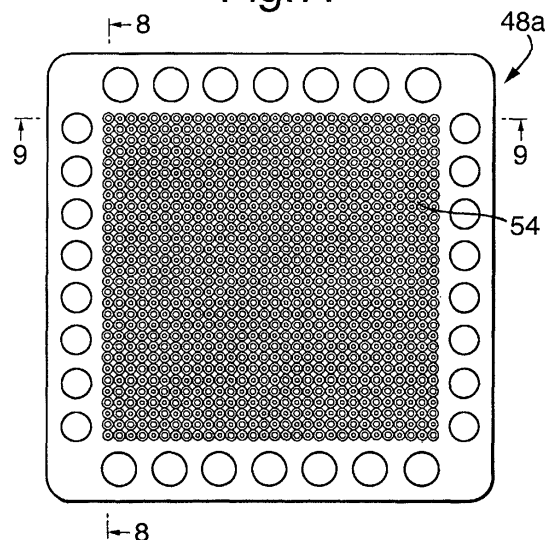
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(54) **Fuel cell stack having a featured interconnect element**

(57) An interconnect element for electrically connecting an anode and a cathode in adjacent fuel cells in a fuel cell stack, wherein said interconnect element has at least one featured surface including dimples, bosses, and/or pins arranged in a two-dimensional pattern. Preferably, both surfaces are featured, as by mechanical dimpling, embossing, or chemical etching, so that pro-

trusions of the interconnect surface extend into either or both of the adjacent gas flow spaces to make electrical contact with the surfaces of the anode and cathode. This permits conduction of heat from the anode. The protrusions create turbulence in gas flowing through the flow spaces, which increases hydrogen consumption at the anode and hence electric output of the cell.

**Fig.7.**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 07 8691

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 10 August 2004	Examiner Horváth, L
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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Application Number  
EP 02 07 8691

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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EP 02 07 8691

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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